

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05

COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01

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R 041645Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 350

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 0983

GENEVA PASS BENEDICK AND LEE IN UNCTAD DEBT DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN CI SZ

SUBJECT: CHILE DEBT RESCHEDULING

REF: STATE 45567

1. ON MARCH 4 EMBOFF GAVE USG REACTION TO UK DECISION
NOT TO ATTEND PARIS CLUB MEETING ON CHILE DEBT TO ERNEST
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LECHOT, CHIEF OF LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN SWISS DIVISION

OF COMMERCE, AND LEFT WITH HIM AIDE MEMOIRE BASED ON REFTEL.

2. LECHOT SAID SWISS STRONGLY BELIEVE IN CREDITOR CLUB FORMAT AND FULLY AGREE WITH USG THAT CLUBS SHOULD BE CONCERNED ONLY WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS; POLITICAL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN OTHER FORA. HE SAID SWISS POSITION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH AID BUT WAS BASED ON DESIRE PROTECT CREDITOR COUNTRY INTERESTS.

3. WHILE SWISS SHARE US VIEWS ON DESIRABILITY OF ALL CREDITORS ATTENDING MARCH PARIS CLUB SESSION, UK DECISION NOT TO ATTEND AND POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER COUNTRIES MAY ALSO DROP OUT (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AND SWEDEN) DOES CREATE PROBLEM REGARDING SWISS ATTENDANCE. SWISS HAVE CONSISTENTLY TAKEN POSITION THAT AS SMALL CREDITOR (ABOUT DOLLARS 3 MILLION THIS YEAR) THEY WILLING FOLLOW DECISIONS TAKEN BY MAJORITY OTHER CREDITORS. LECHOT FEARS THAT IF TOO MANY COUNTRIES BOYCOTT MARCH MEETING SWITZERLAND WOULD FIND ITSELF TOO EXPOSED FOR COMFORT. FROM SWISS POINT OF VIEW ATTENDANCE OF FRANCE AND GERMANY ESSENTIAL AND OF AT LEAST SOME OTHER SMALL COUNTRIES VERY DESIRABLE.

4. IN EFFORT SALVAGE MARCH SESSION, LECHOT OFFERED WHAT HE SAID WAS "PERSONAL" SUGGESTION. HE PROPOSED THAT PARIS CLUB MEET AS SCHEDULED BUT DROP FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH CHILEANS WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE AT SOME LATER DATE. LECHOT THOUGHT THIS MIGHT PERMIT SOME COUNTRIES TO ATTEND THAT MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE DO SO. HE REITERATED THAT THIS HIS OWN IDEA AND NOT SWISS GOVERNMENT POSITION. LECHOT TOLD EMBOFF, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS ALREADY GIVEN THIS "PERSONAL" SUGGESTION TO FRENCH EMBASSY AND PLANS TO DISCUSS IT WITH GERMAN, JAPANESE, AND OTHER CREDITOR COUNTRY EMBASSIES. HE ALSO PLANS TO DISCUSS PARIS CLUB MEETING WITH UK EMBASSY AND WILL PRESENT SWISS POSITION OUTLINED PARA 2 ABOVE.

5. LECHOT SAID FINAL DECISION ON SWISS ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN NEXT WEEK AND HE PROMISED KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBT REPAYMENTS, MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN00983
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750076-0868
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750386/aaaaczjx.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 45567
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHILE DEBT RESCHEDULING
TAGS: EFIN, CI, SZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006